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JUNE, 1920.

# The Library Assistant

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF

#### THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

VOL. XV.

EDITED BY HENRY A. SHARP. (Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon).

No. 6.

EPT.

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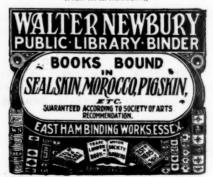
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### Che Library Assistant:

The Official Journal of the Library Assistants' Association,

No. 264.

JUNE, 1920.

Published Monthly

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS.

As announced last month, the 25th Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, 9th and 10th June, 1920, in London. On Wednesday, 9th June, at 3.30 o'clock, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Education, the Rt. Hon. Herbert Lewis, M.P., will deliver an address in the Botanical Theatre, University College, Gower Street, W.C. The Provost of the College, Sir Gregory Foster, has been invited to take the chair, and invitations have been addressed to a large number of librarians and others interested in the progress of the Library Movement. It is hoped that the Meeting will not only be well attended, but that also it will be representative of the profession in and around London.

At the conclusion of this meeting, tea will be served in the the Mocatta Library for those members of the Association remaining to the Annual Business Meeting and Social Evening which are to follow. The principal items on the Agenda for the Business Meeting will include the adoption of the 25th Annual Report, as printed in this issue of the journal, consideration of resolutions for increasing the Annual Subscriptions and for making uniform the financial year throughout the Association, for the formation of a Benevolent Fund, and also for changing the

title of the Association.

Subsequently, an informal Social Gathering will be held, at which vocal, instrumental and other items will be rendered.

On Thursday, 10th June, a visit will be paid to the Guildhall, Cheapside, E.C., at 3 o'clock, when the visitors will be received by Mr. Bernard Kettle, Corporation Librarian, who will kindly explain the methods of administration, and display the special arrangements made for filing prints, the care of literary treasures. As far as possible, Mr. Kettle will likewise conduct the party through portions of the building not usually open to the public, and will include the fine local Museum and Art Gallery.

The Council sincerely trusts that members will make a real effort to support these arrangements to the best of their ability. The Meeting marks the conclusion of a quarter of a century's work: the address by Mr. Herbert Lewis will be one of outstanding interest great pains have been taken to provide an attractive programme, and it only remains for every individual member to do his or her best to attend for the event to prove a record one in the Association's history.

#### SOUTH COAST BRANCH.

By kind invitation of Mr. James Hutt, M.A., F.L.A., Borough Librarian of Portsmouth, the Eighth Annual Meeting of the South Coast Branch will be held at Portsmouth, on Wednesday, 14th July.

An attractive programme is being arranged, and it is hoped that members and friends will do their best to make this meeting (the first to be held at Portsmouth) a successful one. Full particulars will be circulated to the Libraries in the Branch area in due course.

Nominations for Officers and Committee for 1920-21 are invited, and should reach the undersigned *not later* than Tuesday, 22nd June.

ARTHUR WEBB,

Honorary Secretary, Public Library, Brighton.

The National Library for the Blind.—In response to our appeal last month on behalf of this excellent library, the Honorary Treasurer of the Association has received a number of contributions. Members who have not yet contributed are reminded that it is still possible for them to do so.

Mr. Thorne's Resignation.—Reference was made in our columns last month to the fact that Mr. Thorne proposes to relinquish the office of Honorary Secretary to the Association at the Annual Meeting. At the last meeting of the Council a resolution was unanimously adopted expressing the best thanks and appreciation of the Association for his able services, as follows:—

"This Council learns with extreme regret that Mr. W. Benson Thorne will not seek re-election to the office of Honorary Secretary of the Library Assistants' Association, which position he has held with signal ability for the past five years.

In reluctantly accepting Mr. Thorne's decision, this Council desires to place on record its high appreciation of his excellent services to the profession in general, and to the Association in particular, during more than twenty years, and especially during the period of the European War, 1914-18, when, had it not been for his unselfish efforts, the Association must have suffered a severe and regrettable set-back.

The Council further hopes that Mr. Thorne will retain his seat on the Council, and so allow the Association to benefit from his long and unique experience of library conditions."

In response to the expressed wish of many members, it is proposed to ask Mr. Thorne to accept some tangible mark of the Association's appreciation of his work on its behalf. Accordingly, a fund has been opened, and those who feel that they would like to participate, are requested to forward their contributions to Mr. J. F. Hogg, Central Library, Lavender Hill, Battersea, S.W. 11. That the presentation may be made at the Annual Meeting, contributions should reach the Treasurer not later than 7th June.

# Library Assistants' Association. Twenty-fifth Annual Report, 1919-1920.

It is noteworthy that with the issue of our 25th Annual Report the Public Library Movement enters upon a new era in its history through the passing of the Public Libraries Act of 1919, and the foundation of the first University School of Librarianship in this country. Both these events are of the utmost importance to the future of Librarianship, and change the aspect of the whole horizon, lighting it up with possibilities which could not be envisioned in the circumstances formerly existing, and liberating potentialities for which hitherto there had been no outlet. The effects of these new conditions cannot at present be calculated, but it may be safely conjectured that extensive developments are merely a matter of time, and that another generation will witness such growth as will more than fulfil the expectations of the pioneers of progressive Librarianship.

Membership.—The total number of members is 524, made up as follows: 30 Fellows, 307 Members and 187 Associates. Compared with past reports this number is not unsatisfactory, but compared with the estimated number of assistants employed in the Libraries throughout the British Isles, it is a disheartening proportion. There are, however, some prospects of improvement, and it may be that succeeding reports will record a larger percentage.

Finance.—The Balance Sheet shows an improvement in receipts, mainly in subscriptions from members returned from active service, but this has been counterbalanced by the heavily increased charges for printing and stationery. A larger revenue is imperative if the Association's work is to be continued in anything like an efficient manner. The pre-war standard is at present a long way off, and the proposal for increasing the rates of subscription which will be submitted on behalf of the Council

at the Annual Meeting seems completely justified. That the Association's finances are not in a worse condition is mainly due to the unwearied attention given to the duties of Honorary Treasurer by Mr. Hogg, whose task is a never-ceasing one, involving large correspondence and careful watching of details. His work would be much lighter if members observed their obligations more punctually in the matter of paying subscriptions, and the Council desires to express its sincere appreciation of Mr. Hogg's devoted service.

Officers and Council.—With the resumption of an approach to normal conditions the work of the Council rapidly increased, rendering necessary the revival of special meetings for the transaction of its business. The principal results of its deliberations are revealed in this Report, but much that it has achieved cannot be summarised in paragraphs, though the influence will be apparent to the discerning eye. A tribute is due to the unflagging interest of the retiring President, Mr. R. F. Bullen, who throughout the time he has held office has seldom missed a meeting, and has always been alert in his attention to the duties connected therewith. Mr. Bullen was an original member of the Association, and his faithfulness is an example which some of the younger members will do well to observe. In every way he has earned the most hearty thanks of the Association for his services. During the year changes have occurred: Mr. W. G. Hawkins resigned his seat as a result of his appointment to a rate-collectorship in Fulham; Mr. G. R. Bolton was unable to take his seat on the Council owing to his selection for the Librarianship of Watford; while Mr. John Warner soon after his election was appointed Librarian of Newport (Mon.). To each of these the Association is indebted for more than ordinary services, particularly with regard to Messrs. Bolton and Warner, both of whom have worked for it whole-heartedly and enthusiastically in past days. To fill the vacancies thus created, Messrs. Luxmoore Newcombe (University College), Gurner P. Jones, B.A. (Stepney) and J. E. Walker (Tottenham) have been elected, and have rendered valuable service. With the publication of this Report the present Honorary Secretary relinquishes the office he has held for the past five years, and desires to tender his thanks to the many members and friends of the Association who have dealt generously with him throughout that period, according him unfailing sympathy and kindness in a degree which can never be repaid, though he trusts still to be permitted to serve the Association and the Profession in a less prominent position.

"The Library Assistant."—The Official Journal has appeared regularly throughout the year under the editorship of

Mr. Henry A. Sharp. Though its pages are still few in number, they have been increased, and it is hoped that the near future will see a still further enlargement. At the same time, members must be warned that the cost of production shows no signs of cheapening; and a return to the twenty-page Journal of pre-war days seems yet a long way off. In spite of its small size, however, it is undeniably an indispensable channel of information to the assistant wishing to keep himself informed on professional affairs. The Council desires again to record its gratitude to Mr. Sharp for his unselfish labours in conducting the Journal.

Monthly Meetings.—The pre-war practice of submitting a programme of meetings and papers for the whole winter session was not resumed, arrangements for meetings being only made three months ahead. Owing to the unsettled state of affairs generally, it was deemed wiser to adopt this plan, which left the Council at liberty to take advantage of the changing aspects of the time, and so to deal promptly with any matter of interest engaging the attention of librarians. The Inaugural Meeting of the Session was held in most happy circumstances in the Lecture Theatre of the Chemical Society, when a thoughtful and instructive address was delivered by Professor John Adams. Further distinction was given to the occasion by the reading of an encouraging message from the Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, M.P., Minister of Education, who regretted his inability to be present, and commended the work of the Association in high Meetings have been held at University College, the Central Library for Students, the South Kensington Museum, and at the Chelsea, Fulham and Shoreditch Public Libraries, together with an enjoyable afternoon ramble-visit to the Libraries of Woolwich. Interesting discussions have been promoted, and it may be claimed that the meetings generally have been of a stimulating character. Attendances have dwindled in some measure, which is rather discouraging to the Executive, but it is hoped that a revival in this respect will be seen next session. To all those who have contributed papers or allowed meetings to be held at the Institutions in their charge, the Council wishes to offer an expression of its sincerest thanks, appreciating fully the kindliness and generous treatment so unstintingly given.

Branches.—It is necessary to record with regret, that one or two of the Branch Associations have lapsed through stress of circumstances caused by the war. In one or two directions the spark of existence is not wholly extinguished, and given favourable opportunities, it is not impossible that the flame may be rekindled. The Midland Branch is taking steps for a resumption of activity; the West of Scotland Branch is confronted with

difficulties which may disappear under the re-creating hand of an enthusiast with time at his disposal, while the South Coast and North Eastern Branches have re-commenced a regular programme of meetings. The Yorkshire Branch pursues a strong and vigorous course, having completely re-established its former vitality, and now conducts its affairs with unqualified The Honorary General Secretary attended the Annual Meeting by invitation in January, and addressed an exceptionally well-attended gathering, auguring well for the future of the Branch. In the North Western area the local Branch has also carried out a highly successful programme, exhibiting an enthusiasm entirely admirable and giving cause for much As this report goes to press, negotiations are proceeding for the amalgamation of the Liverpool and District Association of Assistant Librarians with the Branch, which, if it eventuates, will result in the formation of one of the largest of the local Associations. A new scheme is being recommended by which the Branch will be able to create local divisions with monthly meetings for each, and occasional meetings on a larger scale for the whole Branch. Several advantages will acrue from this: the Branch will gain in status, and its influence will cover a wider area; members will have a choice of meetings, and difficulties occasioned by distances will to some extent be avoided; the most important achievement, however, will be the consolidation of interests. It is for this reason that the formation of new Branches and the linking-up of local organisations is so desirable: never before has there been such a need for the existence of a society representing assistants in libraries generally, yet unfortunately nothing that is truly representative has any being at present, though there are innumerable little organisations carrying on. The Library Assistants' Association is the only one of its kind of a national character, and for their own sakes, assistants would do well to consider seriously the advisability of immediately joining There may be elements in its constitution of forces with it. which they do not approve, but its constitution is not unchangeable: it possesses the machinery for a wide extension of its operations, and it should not be beyond the powers of assistants to graft upon it the functions of a society capable of voicing the collective aspirations of the whole body of assistants employed in the Public and Institutional Libraries of the British Isles. necessary requirements for accomplishing this are merely the exercise of a little wisdom, the repression of personal prejudice for the common good, the sacrifice of a little leisure, and the resolute uplifting of an ideal to which all shall be prepared to devote something of themselves through any means at their immediate disposal.

Roll of Honour.—In accordance with the desire of the Association to keep their memory green the following is as complete a list as it has been possible to compile of those who gave their lives in the Great War.

Abey (J. S.), Sheffield.
Allard (G. O.), Brixton.
Anderson (A. R.), Johannesberg.
Asling (E. H.) Newark.
Bacon (S.), Stepney.
Bayley (D. J.), Hackney.
Bishop (E.), Enfield.
Boxall (F. J.), Sion College.
Braine (W. S.), East Ham.
Buck (C.), Newcastle.
Bullock (F. C.), Cardiff.
Camplin (P. W.), Hounslow.
Carlisle (A. D.), Port Elizabeth.
Checketts (H. W.), Birmingham.
Conmee (J. A.), National Library of Ireland.

reland.
Coombes (V. H.), Kensington.
Daniels (R. M.), S. Shields.
Davison (J. L.), London University.
Dixon (H. P. N.), St. Bride.
Gardener (J. W.), East Ham.
Garner (P. A.), Birmingham.
Glenn (F. M.), Walthamstow.
Hall (P. C.), Hull.
Hammersley (F. J. B.), East Ham.
Hardy (R. T.), Westminster.
Harradine (F. C.), Poplar.
Hart (H.), Mechanics' Institute,

Hart (H.), Mechanics Institute,
Burnley,
Hindmarch (E.), Sundevland,
Hutcheson (R. H.), Glasgow,
Izard (F. T.), Birmingham,
Johnson (A. B.), Westminster,
Jordan (A. P.), Newcastle,
Kennelly (C.), Athenaeum, London,
Lester (F.), Walthamstow,
Lewis (T.), National Library of Wales,
The publication of the Alb

The publication of the Album of Honour is still delayed on account of its incompleteness. The Library Association is acting in the matter, and agreeable to the arrangement made with that Association some time ago, it is hoped that the final and permanent memorial will soon take shape.

Obituary.—By the death of Mr. H. V. Hopwood on 5th December last, the Association has lost a good friend and a former member of its Council.

The Association's Library. — Thanks very largely to Mr. F. W. T. Lange's magnificent gift, reported last year, the Association's collection of Professional Literature is now of important dimensions; in addition to a large number of pamphlets

Mason (R. A. R.), Eastbourne.
Mayhew (E.), Hammersmith.
Mayrick (R. T.), Wandsworth.
McColvin (N.), Croydon.
Meakin (F.), Tottenham.
Mendham (), Eastbourne.
Mills (F. E.), Ealing.

Mills (F. E.), Ealing.
Moslin (A. M.), Stepney.
Munday (J. S.), Liverpool.
Newman (E.), London Library.
Nightingale (S. D.), Croydon.
Owens (T. W.), Kensington.

Parker (R.), Bolton.
Peppiette (E. A.), Liverpool University.

versity.
Perrett (E. H.), Bournemouth.
Purkis (H. W.), Westminster.
Rathbone (B. E.), Northampton.
Richardson (A.), Lewisham.
Riley (T.), Birmingham.
Robarts (H. M.), Walthamstow.
Robson (G.), Newcastle Literary and

Philosophical Society.
Sherwood (C. W.), Westminster.
Smith (G. B.), Glasgow University.
Smither (R. E.), Brighton.
Stevenson (H.), Bournemouth.
Spencer (C.), Lewisham.
Storey (T. B.), Westminster.
Strachau (D. L.), Leeds.
Sutton (O. J.), Manchester.
Turner (H. J.), Westminster.
Wilcock (F. N.), Preston.

Willmore (W. A.), Erith. Young (J. D.), Greenwich. Young (W. B.), Erith. and unbound periodicals, there are 780 volumes available, to which accessions are continually being made. It should be understood that the files of periodicals form a highly valuable feature. whilst the pamphlets are scarcely less important, and the total number of items contained in the collection now approximates 2,000. Mr. Lange sends frequent gifts of pamphlets and periodicals, and recently presented a copy of the new edition of Brown's "Manual of Library Economy." For this continued interest the Association is immensely indebted to him, and cannot adequately thank During the year there has been a considerable revival in the use made of the Library, particularly for books on Classification and Cataloguing, so much so that the supply has not been equal to the demand. There is great need for increased shelving accommodation, and the Council is considering schemes for providing this. Mrs. Hazard has carried out the duties of Honorary Librarian in a most able fashion, and the Council wishes to offer her its very hearty thanks for her valued assistance.

Salaries and Conditions of Service. It was recorded in the last Report that the Association had become affiliated to the National Association of Local Government Officers with a view to safe-guarding the interests of its members on the pecuniary and material side. A Joint Consultative Committee of representatives of all affiliated societies has been set up, to which Messrs. G. P. Jones and H. G. Sureties were delegated, and the object of which is to formulate scales of salaries for submission to the National Whitley Council. The Council of the L.A.A. provided a scale which approaches as near a reasonable and equitable guide as can probably be devised, owing to the many conflicting elements involved, and this was printed in the May number of the Iournal. It is with extreme regret that the Council perceives very little tendency to improve the status and circumstances of the Profession now that Library incomes are no longer limited, and again and again it has felt compelled to protest to Corporations advertising for officers at salaries which were contemptible in their meagreness. While librarians and their assistants are content to acquiesce, so long will Library Committees be willing to secure their services at low rates of remuneration, but the cost of living, together with the higher qualifications now required, demand that there should be a very considerable increase on the amounts at present offered. It is significant that advertisements re-appear time after time, from which it may be concluded that the inducements they offer fail to attract suitable response, and it is hoped that members will refrain from applying for posts not adequately remunerated, even though they may be an improvement on the positions they hold at the moment. In some Libraries, the hours of duty are being improved by reduction and by a more acceptable distribution of the working times. There remains a good deal to be done in this direction, however, before the ideal of even a forty-hour week is recognised in every Library, and the Council will use its influence for securing this end whenever it can.

Benevolent Fund.—Through the generosity of the Worshipful Company of Cutlers, actuated by that very old friend of the Association, Mr. Charles Welch, a Benevolent Fund is about to be set up. Its resources are not large at present but they will grow, and as there is no prospect of large claims being made upon them, it is hoped that in time there will be available a little fund for assisting any deserving member should the need arise.

Library Association Council Election.—With a view to securing representation upon the Council of the Library Association at the Election in 1919, several selected candidates were nominated and given such support as the Association had in its power. The results were gratifying, half the nominees securing election, including the Honorary General Secretary, who polled a

high percentage of votes.

The Future of the Association.—It is unquestionable that the Association has reached a critical stage in its career: the Profession generally appears to lack cohesion, a widespread state of hesitation seems to paralyse its movements, and instead of Librarianship going forward with a well-defined policy for securing the recognition from authority and from the public which has so long been withheld, there is apparent on all sides a flabbiness and indecision which bodes no good for its immediate future. Responsible officers are satisfied to recommend to their Committees that the least possible salaries should be offered to assistants, and determined efforts to improve the status are anything but conspicuous. Exceptions naturally exist, but it is time lamentation ceased, it is time the Profession awoke to the opportunities of the hour. All this is reflected within the Association, and if the Association is to achieve anything for its members, they must cast aside lethargy and apply themselves diligently to the business required of them. Of itself the Council can do little, though it may accomplish considerably more if given the unqualified support of the individual member, and it is to be hoped that the coming year may witness the dawn of a new era to signalise the commencement of a second quarter-century of its history.

Thanks.—In conclusion the Council wishes to place on record its thanks to Miss Rees who for so long undertook the addressing of the envelopes each month for the despatch of the Journals. A

change of position rendered it necessary for her to give up the work, but she has continued a member of the Council and maintains unabated her zeal for the Association's welfare in the promotion of which she spares herself nothing. Miss M. E. Day took over the work from Miss Rees, and in spite of great pressure in her daily duties has relieved the Council of any anxiety as to the distribution of its official publication, an undertaking for which thanks cannot adequately be expressed in words. To Miss Prince the Council's warmest thanks are due for permission to meet at the National Library for the Blind which she controls so ably, this being a convenience that cannot be over-estimated; also to the authorities of the Bishopsgate, Cripplegate and St. Bride Institutes, and to the chief librarians of Kensington and Hackney for permission to hold Council Meetings in the libraries under their control; to Mr. Wm. I. Harris, Borough Librarian of Islington, thanks are accorded for continuing to allow the Association's Library to be housed at the Central Library, and to Mr. Walter S. C. Rae, Borough Librarian of Fulham, for permitting the stock of the Association's Journal to be stored in his Central building, while Miss Marchant continues her valuable work of supervision, for which the Council is much indebted to her. Finally, the Council thanks all those who have, in a variety of ways, served the Association during the period under reveiw.

Signed on behalf of the Council, R. F. BULLEN, President. W. B. THORNE, Hon. Secretary.

£198 0 24

May, 1920.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1919-20

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS A	AND EXPENDITURE, 1919-20.
RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURE.
£ s. d. £ s. d.	
Balance 53 1 6½	Printing (in-
Members' Sub-	cluding "The
scriptions 49 8 6	Library Assist-
Branch Sub-	ant''110 7 2
scriptions 24 9 0	Postages (in-
Advertisements	cluding "The
in, and Sale of	Library Assist-
"Library As-	ant'' 27 10 61
sistant '' 48 17 6	Stationery 7 7 5
Sale of L.A.A.	Subscriptions 7 7 0
Series 1 3 10	Miscellaneous 4 13 7
Donations 20 19 10	157 5 8
144 IS 8	Balance:
	On Deposit, Farrow's
	Bank (Benevolent Fund) 23 2 0
	In Hon. Treasurer's
	Hands 17 12 6

£198 0 23

#### OFFICERS AND COUNCIL: REGISTER OF ATTENDANCES.

BULLEN, Mr. R. F.		Summoned to	21	Attended	19	Meetings
COOPER, Mr. R.			21	**	21	**
CUMMINS, Mr. A. E.			21	0.0	13	0.0
DAY, Miss M. E.		4.9	21	0.0	14	9.8
Hogg, Mr. J. F.		**	21	9.9	21	0.5
Jones, Mr. G. P.		9.9	13	**	13	4.9
LUKE, Mr. E.			21	0.0	15	8.61
NEWCOMBE, Mr. L.		**	15	* 0	8	
PARKER, Mr. W. H.		9.0	21	0.0	19	9.0
PREECE, Mr. J. F.			21	0.5	4	9.4
REES, Miss G.			21		18	0.1
SHARP, Mr. H. A.		* 9	21	0.0	15	9.6
SMITH, Mr. H.		0.0	21	9.0	4	9.6
SURETIES, Mr. H. G.	0.0.0	**	21	**	15	**
THORNE, Mr. W. B.	000	**	21	8.0	19	
VALE, Mr. G.		**	21		15	9.6
WALKER, Mr. J. E.		**	15	0.9	15	9.0
WARNER, Mr. J.		**	8	0.0	4	**

Attendances of members of Council beyond a twelve mile radius are not recorded.

#### THE L.A.A. SALARY SCALE.

Extract from Report of Hours, Salaries, etc., 1911, published by L.A.A. "It is desirable . . . that the library authorities of the country should encourage their officers to enter for the examinations [of the Library Association.]"

The new scale of salaries proposed by the L.A.A. and published in the May number of the *Library Assistant* is good so far as it goes, but there is little doubt that on one point a good many members of the L.A.A. will be in entire disagreement with this latest evidence of the Association's policy.

The L.A.A. ignores its honourable record as the champion of professional training when it places before library authorities any scheme which neglects to take educational qualifications into account, and it goes without saying that such schemes would do much to damp the enthusiasm of those who have worked, and are working at the L.A. syllabus with a view to being adequately equipmed on the educational side of their work.

equipped on the educational side of their work.

The "Deadheads" of the profession are its chief standing menace, and the one that we were all hoping to see swept away before another generation. Yet these timeservers are at last justified in the contempt of certificates which they have always professed. In the new salary proposals there is no mention of grading by qualifications, or even of the salaries within the gradese depending more on good work and keenness than on mere length of service. The malicious query of the "deadhead"—"where are your certificates now?" will surely have its effect on enthusiastic beginners as well as on those who have gone through hard years of training, and the inevitable reaction will spell the end of professional training and librarianship as a recognised profession.

By all means let us have salary schemes to place before our committees but let those bearing the authority of a professional association be sane and just to assistants of all sorts. The Association will best cancel its recent indiscretion by an amended scheme on a basis of merit, and the Council would do well to get busy on this before they seek re-election.

"CERTIFICATES."

Note.—In the proposed Scale of Salaries we understand that the Council of the L.A.A. is legislating for all classes of assistants, and assumes that all are qualified for the positions they hold.—Ed.

#### PROCEEDINGS.

A very enjoyable meeting of the South Coast Branch was held at the Eastbourne Public Library, on Friday, 23rd April. Alderman J. C. Wright, Chairman of the Eastbourne Libraries Committee (who entertained the members to tea) presided, supported by two Hon. Vice-Presidents of the Branch—Mr. J. H. Hardcastle, F.L.A., Chief Librarian of Eastbourne, and Mr. J. Hutt, M.A., F.L.A., Borough Librarian of Portsmouth

After a few introductory remarks, in which he recalled the fact that owing to the War the Branch had held no meeting at Eastbourne for over six years, the Chairman called upon Mr. William Law (Chairman of the Branch) to read a paper on "The Educational Value of Public Libraries, Museums, and Art Galleries." Mr. Law dealt with the subject in a very exhaustive manner, and the ensuing discussion was opened by Mr. Hutt, other speakers being

Alderman Wright, and Messrs. Hardcastle, Cooper, and Webb.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. A. Webb) reported that Mr. Hutt had adjudicated upon the essays submitted in connection with the "Roberts' Prize Essay Scheme," and had awarded the senior prize to Miss E. Young (of Brighton), and the junior prize to Miss K. Kendall (also of Brighton). In the unavoidable absence of Mr. H. D. Roberts, M.B.E., the Chairman handed the prizes of half-a-guinea each to the successful competitors. The Prize Essays were to have been read at this meeting, but lack of time prevented this being done. Votes of thanks to Mr. Law, Alderman Wright, Mr. Hutt, Mr. Hardcastle, and the Eastbourne Staff concluded a very successful meeting. A. W.

#### APPOINTMENTS.

\*THOMAS W. ROBERTS, Richmond, to be sub-librarian, Twickenham.

\*JAMES ROSS, F.L.A., sub-deputy librarian, Bristol, formerly librarian Walton and Fazakerley (Liverpool), to be deputy librarian, Bristol.

\*A. E. SLEIGHT, F.L.A., Hull, to be senior assistant, Cardiff. [Last month we announced in error that Mr. T. T. Sleight, also of Hull, had been appointed to Cardiff.]

MR. WOODS, Bournemouth, to be an assistant, Stoke Newington.

\* Member, L.A.A.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

Members: Mrs. HAZARD and Miss Phyllis SMITH (Islington); Mr. Thos. V. ROBERTS, Twickenham.

### DUSTLESS and HYCIENIC LIBRARIES.

USE

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